

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~A pair of oligonucleotides~~[[,]]~~ for ~~use as a set in the~~ amplification of a target sequence of the genome of SARS ~~coronavirus~~Coronavirus, said pair consisting of:

a first oligonucleotide being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of 10 contiguous~~ nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of:

SEQ ID 1: TACCTCTCCA GCTAGGATTT TCTACAGGTG TTAAGTTAGT

AGCTGTACCG ACTGGTTATG TTGACACTGA AAATAACACA GAATTCACCA

GAGTTAATGC AAAACCTCCA CCAGGTGACC AGTTTAAACA TCTT or its

complementary sequence,

SEQ ID 14: TCAGCCCCAG ATGGTACTTC TATTACCTAG GAACTGGCCC

AGAAGCTTCA CTT or its complementary sequence,

SEQ ID 23: TGCTCCAAGT GCCTCTGCAT TCTTTGGAAT GTCACGCATT

GGCATGGAAG TCACACCTT or its complementary sequence, or

SEQ ID 31: TGCCTATATG GAAGAGCCCT AATGTGTAAA ATTAATTTTA

GTAGTGCTAT CCCCATGTGA TTTTAATAGC TT, or ~~[[the]]~~its complementary sequence

~~thereof;~~ and

a second oligonucleotide being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of 10 contiguous~~ nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of:

SEQ ID 2: ATGAATTACC AAGTCAATGG TTACCCTAAT ATGTTTATCA

CCCGCGAAGA AGCTATTCGT CACGTTTCGTG CGTGGATTGG CTTTGATGT or its

complementary sequence,

SEQ ID 17: AGGTTTACCC AATAATACTG CGTCTTGGTT CACAGCTCTC

ACTCAGCATG GCAAGGAGGA ACTTAGATTC CCTCGAGGCC AGGGCGTTCC

AATCAACACC AATAGTGGTC CAGATGACCA AAT or its complementary sequence,

SEQ ID 26: CCAAAGTGTG ACTAAGAAAT CTGCTGCTGA GGCATCTAAA

AAGCCTCGCC AAAAACGTAC TGCCACAAAA CAGTACAACG TCACTCAAGC

ATTTGGGAGA CGTGGTCCAG AACAAACCCA AGGAAATT or its complementary sequence, or

SEQ ID 34: TACGATACAT AGTCTACTCT TGTGCAGAAT GAATTCTCGT
AACTAAACAG CACAAGTAGG TTTAGTTAAC TTTAATCTCA CATAGCAATC
TTTAATCAAT GT,
or ~~[[the]]~~its complementary sequence ~~thereof~~,

2. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~The pair of oligonucleotides~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 1, consisting essentially of:

a first oligonucleotide comprising~~[[,]]~~ at least a ~~fragment of 10~~ contiguous nucleotides~~[[,]]~~ of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 3: TCCACCAGGT GACCAGTTTA AACATCTT~~[[,]]~~

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3;

SEQ ID 4: TAGTAGCTGT ACCGACTGGT TATGTT~~[[,]]~~

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;

SEQ ID 5: TACCTCTCCA GCTAGGATTT TCT~~[[,]]~~

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5;

SEQ ID 15: TCAGCCCCAG ATGGTACTTC T~~[[,]]~~

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:15;

SEQ ID 16: TAGGAACTGG CCCAGAAGCT TCACTT~~[[,]]~~

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:16;

SEQ ID 24: TGCTCCAAGT GCCTCTGCAT TCTT~~[[,]]~~

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:24;

SEQ ID 25: TTGGCATGGA AGTCACACCT T~~[[,]]~~

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:25;

SEQ ID 32: TGCCTATATG GAAGAGCCCC~~[[,]]~~

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:32;

SEQ ID 33: TCCCCATGTG ATTTTAATAG CTT~~[[,]]~~

and the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:33;

~~or the complementary sequence thereof, and~~

a second oligonucleotide comprising, at least a ~~fragment of 10~~ contiguous nucleotides[[,]]
of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 6: ATGAATTACC AAGTCAATGG TTAC[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6;

SEQ ID 7: GAAGCTATTC GTCACGTTTCG[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:7;

SEQ ID 8: TGC GTGGATT GGCTTTGATG T[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8;

SEQ ID 18: AGGTTTACCC AATAATACTG CGT[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:18;

SEQ ID 19: AGATTCCCTC GAGGCCAGGG CGT[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:19;

SEQ ID 20: ATAGTGGTCC AGATGACCAA AT[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:20;

SEQ ID 27: CCAAAGTGC ACTAAGAAAT CTGCT[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:27;

SEQ ID 28: CTCAAGCATT TGGGAGACGT GGT[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:28;

SEQ ID 29: CAGAACAAAC CCAAGGAAAT T[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:29;

SEQ ID 35: TACGATACAT AGTCTACTCT TGT[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:35;

SEQ ID 36: TAACTAAACA GCACAAGTAG GT[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:36;

SEQ ID 37: TAGCAATCTT TAATCAATGT[[,]];

and the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:37

~~or the complementary sequence thereof.~~

3. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~A pair of oligonucleotides, for ~~use as a set in the~~ amplification of a target sequence located within the replicase gene of the genome of SARS ~~coronavirus~~Coronavirus, said pair consisting of:

a first oligonucleotide being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of 10 contiguous~~ nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of: SEQ ID 1: TACCTCTCCA GCTAGGATTT TCTACAGGTG TTAAGTTAGT AGCTGTACCG ACTGGTTATG TTGACACTGA AAATAACACA GAATTCACCA GAGTTAATGC AAAACCTCCA CCAGGTGACC AGTTTAAACA TCTT, or the complementary sequence thereof, and

a second oligonucleotide being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of 10 contiguous~~ nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of: SEQ ID 2: ATGAATTACC AAGTCAATGG TTACCCTAAT ATGTTTATCA CCCGCGAAGA AGCTATTCGT CACGTTCGTG CGTGGATTGG CTTTGATGT, or the complementary sequence thereof.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~The pair of oligonucleotides[[,]] according to claim 3, consisting essentially of:

a first oligonucleotide comprising at least a ~~fragment of 10 contiguous~~ nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 3: TCCACCAGGT GACCAGTTTA AACATCTT, the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3,

SEQ ID 4: TAGTAGCTGT ACCGACTGGT TATGTT, the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4,

SEQ ID 5: TACCTCTCCA GCTAGGATTT TCT, and the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5;

~~or the complementary sequence thereof, and~~

a second oligonucleotide comprising at least a ~~fragment of 10 contiguous~~ nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 6: ATGAATTACC AAGTCAATGG TTAC, the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6,

SED ID 7: GAAGCTATTC GTCACGTTTCG, the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:7,

SEQ ID 8: TGC GTGGATT GGCTTTGATG T, and the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8

~~or the complementary sequence thereof.~~

5. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~ A pair of oligonucleotides, ~~for use as a set in the for~~ amplification of a target sequence located within the gene encoding the ~~nucleocapsid~~ Nucleocapsid protein of the ~~genome of SARS coronavirus~~ Coronavirus, said pair consisting of:

a first oligonucleotide being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of 10~~ contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of:

SEQ ID 14: TCAGCCCCAG ATGGTACTTC TATTACCTAG GAACTGGCCC AGAAGCTTCA CTT, or the complementary sequence thereof, and

a second oligonucleotide being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of 10~~ contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of: SEQ ID 17:

AGGTTTACCC AATAATACTG CGTCTTGGTT CACAGCTCTC ACTCAGCATG
GCAAGGAGGA ACTTAGATTC CCTCGAGGCC AGGGCGTTCC AATCAACACC
AATAGTGGTC CAGATGACCA AAT, or the complementary sequence thereof.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~ The pair of oligonucleotides ~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 5, consisting essentially of:

a first oligonucleotide comprising at least a ~~fragment of 10~~ contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 15: TCAGCCCCAG ATGGTACTTC T ~~[[,]]~~;

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:15;

SEQ ID 16: TAGGAACTGG CCCAGAAGCT TCACTT ~~[[,]]~~;

and the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:16;

~~or the complementary sequence thereof, and~~

a second oligonucleotide comprising at least a ~~fragment of~~ 10 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 18: AGGTTTACCC AATAATACTG CGT[,,];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:18;

SEQ ID 19: AGATTCCCTC GAGGCCAGGG CGT[,,];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:19;

SEQ ID 20: ATAGTGGTCC AGATGACCAA AT[,,];

and the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:20

~~or the complementary sequence thereof.~~

7. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~ A pair of oligonucleotides[,,] for ~~use as a set in the~~ amplification of a target sequence located within the gene encoding the ~~nucleocapsid~~ Nucleocapsid protein of ~~the genome of the SARS coronavirus~~ Coronavirus, said pair consisting of:

a first oligonucleotide being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of~~ 10 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of: SEQ ID 23:
TGCTCCAAGT GCCTCTGCAT TCTTTGGAAT GTCACGCATT GGCATGGAAG
TCACACCTT, or the complementary sequence thereof, and

a second oligonucleotide being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of~~ 10 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of: SEQ ID 26:
CCAAACTGTC ACTAAGAAAT CTGCTGCTGA GGCATCTAAA AAGCCTCGCC
AAAAACGTAC TGCCACAAAA CAGTACAACG TCACTCAAGC ATTTGGGAGA
CGTGGTCCAG AACAAACCCA AGGAAATT, or the complementary sequence thereof.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~ The pair of oligonucleotides[,,] according to claim 7, consisting essentially of:

a first oligonucleotide comprising at least a ~~fragment of~~ 10 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 24: TGCTCCAA GTGCCTCTGC ATTCTT[,,];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:24;

SEQ ID 25: TTGGCATGGA AGTCACACCT T[[,]]; and
the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:25; or the complementary sequence thereof, and

a second oligonucleotide comprising at least a ~~fragment of~~ 10 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 27: CCAAAGTGTG ACTAAGAAAT CTGCT[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:27;

SEQ ID 28: CTCAAGCATT TGGGAGACGT GGT[[,]];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:28;

SEQ ID 29 : CAGAACAAAC CCAAGGAAAT T[[,]];

and the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:29

~~or the complementary sequence thereof.~~

9. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~ A pair of oligonucleotides, ~~for use as a set in the for~~ amplification of a target sequence located within the 3'-~~Non-Coding Region~~ non coding region (3'-NCR) of the genome of SARS ~~Coronavirus~~ coronavirus, said pair consisting of:

a first oligonucleotide being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of~~ 10 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of: SEQ ID 31:

TGCCTATATG GAAGAGCCCT AATGTGTAAA ATTAATTTTA GTAGTGCTAT
CCCCATGTGA TTTTAATAGC TT, or the complementary sequence thereof, and

a second oligonucleotide being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of~~ 10 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of:

SEQ ID 34: TACGATACAT AGTCTACTCT TGTGCAGAAT GAATTCTCGT
AACTAAACAG CACAAGTAGG TTTAGTTAAC TTTAATCTCA CATAGCAATC
TTTAATCAAT GT, or the complementary sequence thereof.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~ The pair of oligonucleotides[[,]] according to claim 9, consisting essentially of:

a first oligonucleotide comprising at least a ~~fragment of~~ 10 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 32: TGCCTATATG GAAGAGCCC[[],];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:32;

SEQ ID 33: TCCCCATGTG ATTTTAATAG CTT[[],];

and the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:33;

~~or the complementary sequence thereof, and~~

a second oligonucleotide comprising at least a ~~fragment of~~ 10 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 35: TACGATACAT AGTCTACTCT TGT[[],];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:35;

SEQ ID 36 : TAACTAAACA GCACAAGTAG GT[[],];

the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:36;

SEQ ID 37: TAGCAATCTT TAATCAATGT[[],];

and the complementary nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:37

~~or the complementary sequence thereof.~~

11. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~The pair of oligonucleotides[[],] according to claim 1, wherein the first oligonucleotide is operably linked to~~provided with~~ a promoter sequence recognized by a DNA dependent RNA polymerase.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~The pair of oligonucleotides[[],] according to claim 11, wherein the first oligonucleotide consists essentially of the nucleotide sequence of:

SEQ ID 9: aattctaata cgactcacta tagggAAGAT GTTTAAACTG GTCACCTGCT GGA,

SEQ ID 10: aattctaata cgactcacta tagggAACAT AACCAGTCGG TACAGCTACT A,

SEQ ID 11: aattctaata cgactcacta tagggAGAAA ATCCTAGCTG GAGAGGTA,

SEQ ID 39: aattctaata cgactcacta tagggAGAAG TACCATCTGG GGCTGA,

SEQ ID 40: aattctaata cgactcacta tagggAAGTG AAGCTTCTGG GCCAGTTCCT A,

SEQ ID 41: aattctaata cgactcacta tagggAAGAA TGCAGAGGCA CTTGGAGCA,

SEQ ID 42: aattctaata cgactcacta tagggAAGGT GTGACTTCCA TGCCAA,

SEQ ID 43: aattctaata cgactcacta tagggGGGCT CTTCCATATA GGCA, or

SEQ ID 44: aattctaata cgactcacta tagggAAGCT ATTAAAATCA CATGGGGA.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Pair~~The pair of oligonucleotides~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 1, wherein each oligonucleotide ~~being~~is 15-30 nucleotides in length and ~~comprising~~comprises at least ~~a fragment of 18 contiguous nucleotides, and preferably being 18-26 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a fragment of 20 nucleotides.~~

14. (Currently amended) ~~An oligonucleotide probe~~Oligonucleotide, for use as a probe to detect ~~the~~an amplified nucleic acid sequence resulting in the amplification of a target sequence located within the genome of SARS ~~coronavirus~~Coronavirus, said target sequence amplified with the amplification being based on pair of oligonucleotides according to claim 1, said probe being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a fragment of 10 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of:

SEQ ID 12: GTTCGTGCGT GGATTGGCTT TGATGTAGAG GGCTGTCATG

CAACTAGAGA TGCTGT, or its complementary sequence,

SEQ ID 21: GGCTACTACC GAAGAGCTAC CCGACGAGTT CGTGGTGGTG

ACGGCAAAT GAAAGAGCTC AGCCCCAGAT GGTACTTCTA TTACCTAGGA

ACTGGCCCAG AAGCTTCACT TCCCTACGGC GCTAACAAAG AAGGCATCGT

ATGGGTTGCA ACTGAGGGAG CCTTGAATAC ACCCAAAGAC CACATTGGCA

CCCGCAATCC TAATAACAAT GCTGCCACCG TGCTACAACT TCCTCAAGGA

ACAACATTGC CAAAAGGCTT CTACGCAGAG GGAAGCAGAG GCGGCAGTCA

AGCCTCTTCT CGCTCCTCAT CACGTAGTCG CGGTAATTCA AGAAATTCAA

CTCCTGGCAG CAGTAGGGGA AATTCTCCTG CTCGAATGGC TAGCGGAGGT

GGTGAAACTG CCCTCGCGCT ATTGCTGCTA GACAGATTGA ACCAGCTTGA

GAGCAAAGTT TCTGGTAAAG GCCAACAACA ACAAGGCCAA ACTGTCACTA

AGAAATCTGC TGCTGAGGCA TCTAAAAAGC CTCGCCAAAA ACGTACTGCC

ACAAAACAGT ACAACGTCAC TCAAGCATTT GGGAGACGTG GTCCAGAACA

AACCCAAGGA AATTTCGGGG ACCAAGACCT AATCAGACAA, or its complementary sequence, or

SEQ ID 38: GCCACCACAT TTTCATCGAG GC,

or ~~[[the]]~~its complementary sequence thereof, wherein said probe further comprises ~~provided~~ with a detectable label.

15. (Currently amended) The oligonucleotide probe ~~Oligonucleotide~~, according to claim 14, wherein the probe ~~comprises~~is constituted by a molecular beacon, preferably selected from the group consisting of:

SEQ ID 13: 5'- [6-FAM]-ccatgggCTGTCATGCAACTAGAGATGCTGTcccatgg- [DabSyl]-3'[[,]];

SEQ ID 45: 5'- [6-FAM]-cgcgatGTTCGTGCGTGGATTGGCTTatcgcg- [DabCyl]-3'[[,]];

SEQ ID 22: 5'-[6-FAM]-ccatgggCTACTACCGAAGAGCTACCCGACGAcccatgg- [DabSyl]-3'[[,]];

SEQ ID 30: 5'-[6-FAM]-ccatggACCAAGACCTAATCAGACAAccatgg- [DabSyl]-3'[[,]]; and

SEQ ID 47: 5'-[6-FAM]-ccatgcGCCACCACATTTTCATCGAgcatgg-[DabSyl]- 3'.

16. (Currently amended) A method for detecting SARS coronavirus nucleic acid in a sample comprising:

(a) employing the sample in a nucleic acid amplification reaction under conditions whereby amplification of SARS coronavirus nucleic acid can occur; and

(b) detecting amplified SARS coronavirus nucleic acid in the sample using the pair of oligonucleotides of claim 1 ~~Use of an oligonucleotides' pair, according to claim 1, in a nucleic acid amplification reaction or as a probe for the detection of SARS Coronavirus nucleic acid in a sample.~~

17. (Currently amended) A method for detecting SARS coronavirus nucleic acid in a sample comprising:

(a) contacting the sample with the pair of oligonucleotides of claim 1 under conditions whereby amplification of SARS coronavirus nucleic acid can occur; and

(b) detecting amplified SARS coronavirus nucleic acid ~~Method for the detection of SARS nucleic acid in a sample wherein the sample is subjected to a nucleic acid amplification reaction~~

~~using a pair of oligonucleotides according to claim 1 and suitable amplification reagents and the presence of any amplified nucleic acid is detected.~~

18. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~Method according to claim 17, wherein ~~detecting the detection of any amplified nucleic acid comprises: is carried out by reacting the sample contacting the amplified SARS coronavirus nucleic acid~~ with an oligonucleotide probe under conditions whereby hybridization can occur, said probe being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least a ~~fragment of 10~~ contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of:

SEQ ID 12: GTTCGTGCGT GGATTGGCTT TGATGTAGAG GGCTGTCATG

CAACTAGAGA TGCTGT, or its complementary sequence,

SEQ ID 21: GGCTACTACC GAAGAGCTAC CCGACGAGTT CGTGGTGGTG

ACGGCAAAT GAAAGAGCTC AGCCCCAGAT GGTACTTCTA TTACCTAGGA

ACTGGCCCAG AAGCTTCACT TCCCTACGGC GCTAACAAAG AAGGCATCGT

ATGGGTTGCA ACTGAGGGAG CCTTGAATAC ACCCAAAGAC CACATTGGCA

CCCGCAATCC TAATAACAAT GCTGCCACCG TGCTACAACT TCCTCAAGGA

ACAACATTGC CAAAAGGCTT CTACGCAGAG GGAAGCAGAG GCGGCAGTCA

AGCCTCTTCT CGCTCCTCAT CACGTAGTCG CGGTAATTCA AGAAATTCAA

CTCCTGGCAG CAGTAGGGGA AATTCTCCTG CTCGAATGGC TAGCGGAGGT

GGTGAAACTG CCCTCGCGCT ATTGCTGCTA GACAGATTGA ACCAGCTTGA

GAGCAAAGTT TCTGGTAAAG GCCAACAACA ACAAGGCCAA ACTGTCACTA

AGAAATCTGC TGCTGAGGCA TCTAAAAAGC CTCGCCAAAA ACGTACTGCC

ACAAAACAGT ACAACGTCAC TCAAGCATTT GGGAGACGTG GTCCAGAACA

AACCCAAGGA AATTTCGGGG ACCAAGACCT AATCAGACAA, or its complementary sequence, or

SEQ ID 38: GCCACCACAT TTTCATCGAG GC, or its complementary sequence, wherein the probe further comprises a detectable label

~~or the complementary sequence thereof, provided with, wherein the probe comprises a detectable label, under suitable hybridization conditions and detecting the presence of the label in any hybrids formed between the amplified sequence and the probe.~~

19. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~Method according to claim 17, wherein the nucleic acid amplification comprises technique used is a NASBA transcription based amplification technique, preferably the NASBA, and the first oligonucleotide is operably linked to~~provided with~~ a promoter sequence recognized by a DNA dependent RNA polymerase.

20. (Currently amended) A test~~Test~~ kit for the detection of SARS coronavirus~~Coronavirus~~ in a sample comprising:

the pair~~a~~ set of oligonucleotides according to claim 1,

an oligonucleotide, for use as a probe, comprising a nucleic acid sequence substantially complementary to at least part of ~~[[the]]~~an amplified nucleic acid sequence, ~~provided with~~and a detectable label, ~~for use as a probe~~, said probe being 10-50 nucleotides in length and comprising at least ~~a fragment of 10~~ contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of:

SEQ ID 12: GTTCGTGCGT GGATTGGCTT TGATGTAGAG GGCTGTCATG

CAACTAGAGA TGCTGT, or its complementary sequence,

SEQ ID 21: GGCTACTACC GAAGAGCTAC CCGACGAGTT CGTGGTGGTG

ACGGCAAAAT GAAAGAGCTC AGCCCCAGAT GGTACTTCTA TTACCTAGGA

ACTGGCCCAG AAGCTTCACT TCCCTACGGC GCTAACAAAG AAGGCATCGT

ATGGGTTGCA ACTGAGGGAG CCTTGAATAC ACCCAAAGAC CACATTGGCA

CCCGCAATCC TAATAACAAT GCTGCCACCG TGCTACAACT TCCTCAAGGA

ACAACATTGC CAAAAGGCTT CTACGCAGAG GGAAGCAGAG GCGGCAGTCA

AGCCTCTTCT CGCTCCTCAT CACGTAGTCG CGGTAATTCA AGAAATTCAA

CTCCTGGCAG CAGTAGGGGA AATTCTCCTG CTCGAATGGC TAGCGGAGGT

GGTGAAACTG CCCTCGCGCT ATTGCTGCTA GACAGATTGA ACCAGCTTGA

GAGCAAAGTT TCTGGTAAAG GCCAACAACA ACAAGGCCAA ACTGTCACTA

AGAAATCTGC TGCTGAGGCA TCTAAAAAGC CTCGCCAAAA ACGTACTGCC

ACAAAACAGT ACAACGTCAC TCAAGCATTT GGGAGACGTG GTCCAGAACA

AACCCAAGGA AATTTCGGGG ACCAAGACCT AATCAGACAA, or its complementary sequence, or

SEQ ID 38: GCCACCACAT TTTCATCGAG GC, or its complementary sequence,

or the complementary sequence thereof, and

suitable amplification reagents.

21. (Currently amended) ~~The test~~Test kit according to claim 20, wherein ~~the~~ suitable amplification reagents enable a NASBA transcription based amplification technique, preferably ~~the~~ NASBA.

22. (New) The pair of oligonucleotides according to claim 1, wherein each oligonucleotide is 18-26 nucleotides in length and comprises at least 20 contiguous nucleotides.